

7

Good evening, thank you for the opportunity to speak. The city council is to be thanked for the time and effort the members put into improving Cambridge.

However, I would like to address ^{awaiting report 15-86} ~~Policy Order~~ regarding Linkage Fees.

It seems that tall commercial and residential buildings are sprouting up everywhere in Cambridge. Most Cambridge residents are not aware of the history or planning regarding these buildings.

A recent report, dubbed the K2C2 report, recommends changing the zoning in Central Square to allow tall buildings of 120', 140' and 160 feet. It was recommended that these buildings be residential and there would be a small number of affordable units included.

That brings up the subject of affordable housing and the fact that linkage fees charged to real estate developers are intended for adding more affordable housing units to provide shelter to those among us earning less than the area median income.

These linkage fees have not been increased in 15 years and are so low that a limited number of affordable units can be built – that number is inadequate to house the ever increasing number of homeless families.

Yet the incumbents campaign on a platform of wanting to increase the number of affordable units, while having a history of voting against that possibility.

The council's recent concern about some allegedly homeless people gathering in Central Square may have something to do with the serious lack of affordable housing (700 families on the Inclusionary housing list), but actually, many of them are housed. I know some of them by sight and know which halfway house they live in. The filth reported in last week's policy order just didn't happen and doesn't happen.

Yet, it appears that the council is more concerned with alienating big developers by raising the linkage fee... it seems, this means the developers' have more money so that they can afford that mansion with the indoor swimming pool, while hundreds of families and our needy adults sleep on benches or wait in line to get into a shelter every evening.

I think it is hypocritical for city council candidates to promise that they will increase the number of affordable units, while for 15 years they have voted against that possibility. It seems to me that the interests of the developers come before the needs of our homeless families. That is wrong.

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